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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,174	09/03/2003	Yuji Hasegawa	20911-08240	6783

758 7590 07/16/2004

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EXAMINER

TO, TUAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3663

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/655,174

Applicant(s)

HASEGAWA, YUJI

Examiner

Tuan C To

Art Unit

3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01/15/2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/12/2003
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

a. New corrected drawings are required in this application because the drawings filed on 01/15/2004 have failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(l) and (m) as indicated in the PTO-948. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

b. The length of current abstract exceeds 150 words.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

During the prior art searching, the examiner has found none of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches or fairly suggests a vehicle control system and method for mounting on a primary vehicle for detecting the approach of another vehicle to perform a collision avoidance action comprising: template memory means for storing templates for detecting the approach of the another vehicle; template update means for

updating the templates when a brake pedal is pressed by a driver; recognizing means of comparing the external image with the updated template and calculating an evaluation value to determine whether the another vehicle approaches the primary vehicle based on the result of said comparing. Neither the references teaches a vehicle control program product to associate with such the system and method for performing such the function.

The closet prior art to the subject matter of claims 1, 9, and 17 is the reference to Kiamura et al. (U.S. 5757287), entitled "Object Recognition System and Abnormality Detection System Using Image Processing", directs to an object recognition system using image processing. Kiamura et al. discloses a camera, a template memory for storing input images at specified points of an object, a shade pattern matching circuit for performing a match between the image data of the memory (3) and image data of the template memory (4) (Kiamura et al., figure 1). Kiamura et al. do not disclose "recognizing means of comparing the external image with the updated template and calculating an evaluation value to determine whether the another vehicle approaches the primary vehicle based on the result of said comparing".

Some other prior art are related to the object monitoring device installed on-board a motor vehicle to avoid a possible collision with an approaching object. For example, Ogura et al. (U.S. 20010012982A1) discloses a side-monitoring apparatus for a motor vehicle, which can recognize a possible collision with an object approaching from a side direction road using an image pick-up means mounted on the vehicle. Ogura et al. do not teach the limitations as now claimed in the present invention.

For the reason discussed above, the application is now set in a condition of allowance except for the formal matter as mentioned above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (703) 308-6273. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

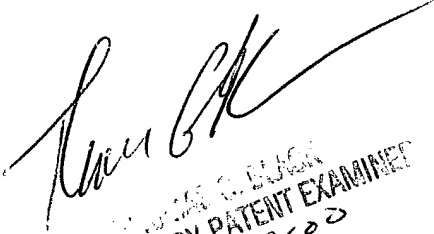
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/tc

July 08, 2004


THOMAS C. TO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3602